UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/S-19/30
27 June 1997
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

Nineteenth special session
Agenda item 8

OVERALL REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF AGENDA 21

Letter dated 26 June 1997 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I hereby have the honour to transmit the text of an appeal by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, adopted on 20 June 1997, to the special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21.

(Signed) S. LAVROV

97-17751 (E) 010797 010797

/...

Best copy available

ANNEX

Appeal by the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, dated 20 June 1997, to the special session of the General Assembly on the overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

In connection with the opening of the special session of the United Nations General Assembly to Review and Appraise the Implementation of Agenda 21 (hereinafter referred to as the special session), the State Duma of the Russian Federation,

Recognizing the need to implement the concept of sustainable development and desirous of contributing to the achievement of goals stipulated in Agenda 21,

Guided by principle 25 of the Rio Declaration on environment and development, in accordance with which "Peace, development, and environmental protection are interdependent and indivisible",

Reaffirming the Russian Federation's commitment to the idea of the elimination of nuclear weapons, and seeking to reorient military technologies and redistribute military expenditures in the interests of sustainable development,

Welcoming the special session and understanding its enormous international significance,

Notes that a number of the difficulties encountered in the implementation of Agenda 21 relate to the exceptional complexity of tasks set in the document, caused by the lack of environmentally safe global energy technologies,

Draws the attention of the special session to the fact that the Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992) does not reflect the prospective potential of astronautics and space exploration,

Notes that, should mankind reassign the nuclear missile potential scheduled for elimination to the delivery of extraterrestrial materials into Earth orbits, man could exploit the resources of the solar system in the course of the twenty-first century,

States that, through the rational application in outer space of the technical and technological legacy of the arms race, instead of its hasty destruction, the use of the existing nuclear missile potential of the Russian Federation, the United States of America, and other countries for the benefit of sustainable development is capable of giving impetus to the preservation and improvement of the environment by mobilizing extraterrestrial energy and material resources for the development of civilization,

The State Duma believes that the following would promote the exploitation of outer space resources:

An appeal by the special session to Member States to review their attitude towards nuclear and space technology with regard for its influence on people's outlook on the world, and taking into account the new opportunities provided by missile and nuclear disarmament;

An appeal by the special session to the Governments of the Russian Federation and the United States of America to consider the rational employment of their missile and nuclear potential as a contribution of these two countries to common efforts to ensure sustainable development and preservation of the natural environment of this earth; to start - should the response of the two Governments be positive - developing relevant international programmes and projects ensuring respect for the regime of non-proliferation of nuclear and missile technologies and for intellectual property rights;

An appeal by the special session to the business, technological and scientific communities, as well as to non-governmental organizations, to support research and development relating to the use of astronautics and nuclear capacities in the interests of sustainable development through financing and the provision of independent international expertise;

An appeal by the special session to the mass media to ensure, by providing reliable, full, and timely information, the transparency of decision-making in regard to the above-mentioned issues, and the possibility of public participation in such decision-making.

The State Duma calls on:

The United Nations to create an international legal basis for the process of redirecting nuclear missile potential to the objectives stipulated in Agenda 21 and to ensure the financing of an international expert analysis of the attendant positive and negative factors,

Developed and developing countries to participate on an equal partnership footing in the above activities, ensuring the equitable distribution of expenditures,

The Governments of the nuclear Powers to start developing in the course of nuclear disarmament technologies and means for the peaceful use in outer space of nuclear missile potential and to make provision for international programmes and projects, inter alia, by reallocating resources assigned to defence expenditures,

The State Duma wishes the special session fruitful work in the name of cooperation of the nations of the Earth for the implementation of Agenda 21, and expresses the hope that the above-mentioned issues will be understood and constructively resolved, which in turn will promote peace, disarmament, trust and mutual understanding among nations.